

On behalf of my 16 year old Deaf daughter, Karima, I am saddened and shocked that the FCC may entertain the idea of allowing the restriction of equipment or VRS providers to Deaf and hard or hearing consumers.

A hearing person can use one device to call different vendors. To get another equipment to call other providers burdens the deaf Consumer to purchase another DSL/cable (High Speed Internet) wireless line, to hook up the 2 nd device, or the need to unhook one device and connect the 2 nd device in order to make and receive VRS calls through all 8 VRS providers. This cumbersome process is NOT functional equivalency!

? FCC policy says relay should achieve a "seamless and integrated network of communication services." When using VRS - Blocking incoming and outgoing calls PREVENTS deaf consumers from having the same level of seamless, interconnected telephone access experienced by hearing people.

? Restricting equipment to only one VRS provider can lead to a monopoly . Reducing our choices to only one VRS provider when we accept free equipment is anti-competitive!  
Please rethink the policy on VRS in order to provide the Deaf consumer with "a seamless and integrated network of communication services."